CURRENCY OF NORTH AMERICA.—A tradesman, about eighteen months ago, left Paisley to visit some relatives that had emigrated to Brockville, near Montreal. These, with their connections, he found in possession of the greater number of farms in that neighbourhood. They had abundance of every thing that constitutes the good things of this life, but no money, not even to the amount of five pounds, amongst the whole. His sister, who had accompanied him, began business as a straw-bonnet maker, and having finished one for the wife of a druggist, received payment in sticking-plaister. She had previously ordered from a block-maker a block for a new shape of bonnet, and, on asking the price, was told it was sixpence, but cheapened it down to fivepence. She then presented in payment fivepenny worth of the sticking-plaister, which was accepted, after much grumbling, and an intimation that he had given her the penny down, expecting to be paid in cash. The person previously alluded to taught drawing, and he was obliged, in the absence of money-fees, to board alternately with the parents of each scholar, or take cords of firewood from one; bacon, hams, from another; maple-sugar from a third; ashes from a fourth, &c. &c. This did not exactly suit, however, and he was glad to return home again to his native place.—*Glasgow Argus.*

NEW LINES OF RAILWAY.—A prospectus has been issued for a proposed railway from Norwich to Brandon, by Attleborough and Croxton, with a branch to Thetford. The capital to be raised is 300,000*l.*, in 20*l.* shares. The execution of the work will be under the control of Mr. G. Stephenson and Mr. G. P. Bidder, and Messrs. Grissell and Peto have offered to undertake the work at the rate of 10,000*l.* a mile. The Northern and Eastern Railway Company have called a meeting for the 25th of October, to consider the expediency of applying to Parliament for power to extend their railway from Newport to Cambridge, and thence to Brandon, when the engineer, Mr. Stephenson, will make a report of his survey of the line from Cambridge, by Ely, to Brandon, which, it is stated, will be extremely favourable both as regards levels and purchase of land. The Eastern Counties Company also meditate the prolongation of their line to Brandon.

FITTING OF DOORS, &c.—Whenever it is observed that the soffit of a window or doorway is sunk, so as to impede the door or shutter from closing easily, it should be examined; and it will generally be found that the defect arises from the weakness of the lintel, and that the arch in brickwork, which should be turned over every opening where it is possible, has been omitted. This must be remedied without delay, or it will get worse.

BEECH LEAVES.—The leaves of this tree are often used as a substitute for feathers in a bed. Evelyn says, that being gathered about the fall, and somewhat before they are much frost-bitten, they form the best and easiest mattresses in the world, instead of straw; because, besides their tenderness and loose lying together, they continue sweet for seven or eight years, long before which time straw becomes musty and hard.

WARWICK.—The Earl of Warwick has given the munificent donation of 400*l.* in aid of the fund for erecting a chapel of ease in the parish of St. Mary, Warwick. The noble earl has also liberally offered gratuitously to supply all the stone required for the erection of the intended church.

READING GAOL.—The whole of the roofs of this gaol, which are very extensive, are being covered with asphalte by the Seyssel Company.

We have the highest gratification in announcing that Sir Robert Peel has, within these few days, forwarded a cheque for 4,000*l.* to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with the view of raising a fund to meet the demand for the building of churches, which will ensue from the Act that was passed in the last session. This truly seasonable gift was accompanied, we understand, by a letter scarcely less gratifying, in which he spoke of it as a debt due from him, in consideration of the large fortune he had derived from trade.—*English Churchman.*

CHEAP HYDROMETER.—A simple way to detect the presence of moisture on the surface of the earth, is to wear boots with holes in the soles, or sit upon the ground out of doors for two hours, and then calculate according to the degree of rheumatism to which you will rise.—*Punch.*

TITLES OF HONOUR.—The keeper of a Scotch ale-house having on his sign this name, "M.D. F.R.S." a physician of the Royal Society asked him how he presumed to affix these letters to his name. "Why, Sir," said Boniface, "I have as good a right to it as you have." "What do you mean, you scoundrel?" replied the Doctor. "I mean, Sir," returned the other, "that I was Drum-Major of the Royal Scotch Fusileers."—*Edinburgh Reporter.*

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.—The embellishments, according to estimates submitted to the Woods and Forests, of the state rooms have commenced, and the works are in a forward state. Her Majesty's private apartments will be also re-decorated, and the staircase, corridors, &c. will be also restored.

The two principal side avenues of the Champs Elysées are being laid down with bitumen, so that they may form dry promenades in winter. Men are also actively employed in widening the pavement of the Rue Royale St. Honoré, which is to be planted with trees like the Rue Tronchet. The sides of the Place de la Madeleine, in front of the church, are also being laid down with bitumen.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

THE following contracts are advertised in different papers, and we have kept a register of the particulars of each at the office, which may be referred to on application. In the continuation of this plan, which we flatter ourselves will be of service to our readers, material assistance will be rendered by the forwarding of papers from our country friends, or by any other means of notification of which they may choose to avail themselves.

Paving Foot-paths, St. Paul's, Deptford.—T. Marchant, Vestry Clerk.—C. F. Maltby, 19, Took's-court, Chancery-lane, surveyor. Oct. 17.

YORK AND NORTH MIDLAND RAILWAY.—Tenders for the supply of 5,000 tons iron rails; also 1,500 tons of iron chairs.—Company's Office, York. October 25.

Repairing Turnpike Roads, Bridgwater.—T. Symes, Clerk. October 20.

TENDERS for erecting a Workhouse for the Sevenoaks Union.—Mr. Carnell, Clerk to the Guardians, Sevenoaks. November 1.

COMPETITIONS.

Design for a testimonial to the late G. Clendining, Esq., to be executed at Westport, at a price of 800 guineas.—Dr. Dillon, Infirmary, Castlebar, Mayo, 20 guineas, Jan. 1, 1844.

Premium of a gold medal or money for the best mode of cleansing streets.—March 1, 1844. J. N. O. Gutch, 20, Vere-street.

NOTICES.

TO OUR READERS.

We beg to announce that having made arrangements for an interchange of good offices with a friend in Paris, we shall be happy to promote the inquiries and business of our readers in that city. We propose to establish the same description of agency with the other principal cities on the Continent for the benefit of our undertaking, and for that of our friends.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

"Church of St. John's, Notting Hill."—*Mr. Stevens, of Clement's-Inn, Strand, is the architect of this building.*

"Torus" *knows well enough that there are good and bad advocates. We do not object to the cause he undertakes, but to the mode of advocating it.*

"Bloomsburiensis" *has our thanks for his dispassionate reply to our observations, which we insert; perhaps he will excuse our curtailing his first communication.*

"Mr. Estall."—*We shall always be glad to be set right.*

"W. C."—*Both his communications are to appear, the first in in the engraver's hands.*

"A Carpenter" *is desirous of making a model of a skew arch, and wishes for a reference to the drawing furnished in* THE BUILDER *of September 30th. He will find other papers on the same subject following, which our insertion of that drawing has elicited.*

"Mr. Bryant" *has our thanks.*

"J. M. S., Peckham."—*Something of the kind has been in our thoughts, but it would take much time and trouble.*

"Mr. Benson, North Shields."—*We have heard of his talent before. We shall be happy to promote his views if he will confide in us what he proposes. His assertions in our behalf contrast strangely with the inertness of many.*

"Mr. Clegg" *will oblige us by his proffered good service. We thank him also for what he forwarded.*

The Building Committee of the Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest have awarded the premium of 30 guineas for the best design to Mr. Frederick John Francis, of 251, Oxford-street.

The terms of subscription to THE BUILDER *are as follows:*

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R. E. CLARKE and SON, PAPER-STAINERS, 3, Chenies-street, Bedford-square, respectfully beg leave to state that they have now on hand a large quantity of PAPER-HANGINGS, which they can offer at a very great reduction of price.

Several Hundred Remnant Lots of from three pieces to five pieces will be sold at one-half the usual price.

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STABLE PAVING on the improved principle, 11*s.* 3*d.* per square yard.

PORTABLE WATER-CLOSETS.—MARRIOTT & CROWE recommend their improved PATENT PORTABLE WATER-CLOSETS as the most perfect hitherto introduced. They are peculiarly adapted for sick chambers, hotels, ships, and hot climates, being quite free from smell. Price from 3*l.* 3*l.* & C. also manufacture a water-closet which can be fixed in any situation, and is complete in itself, not requiring any customs over it. May be seen at 89, Fleet-street, 26, Ludgate-hill, and 74, Old Broad-street.

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